

MARVEL
COMICS



VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR

MARVEL

3

APPROVED
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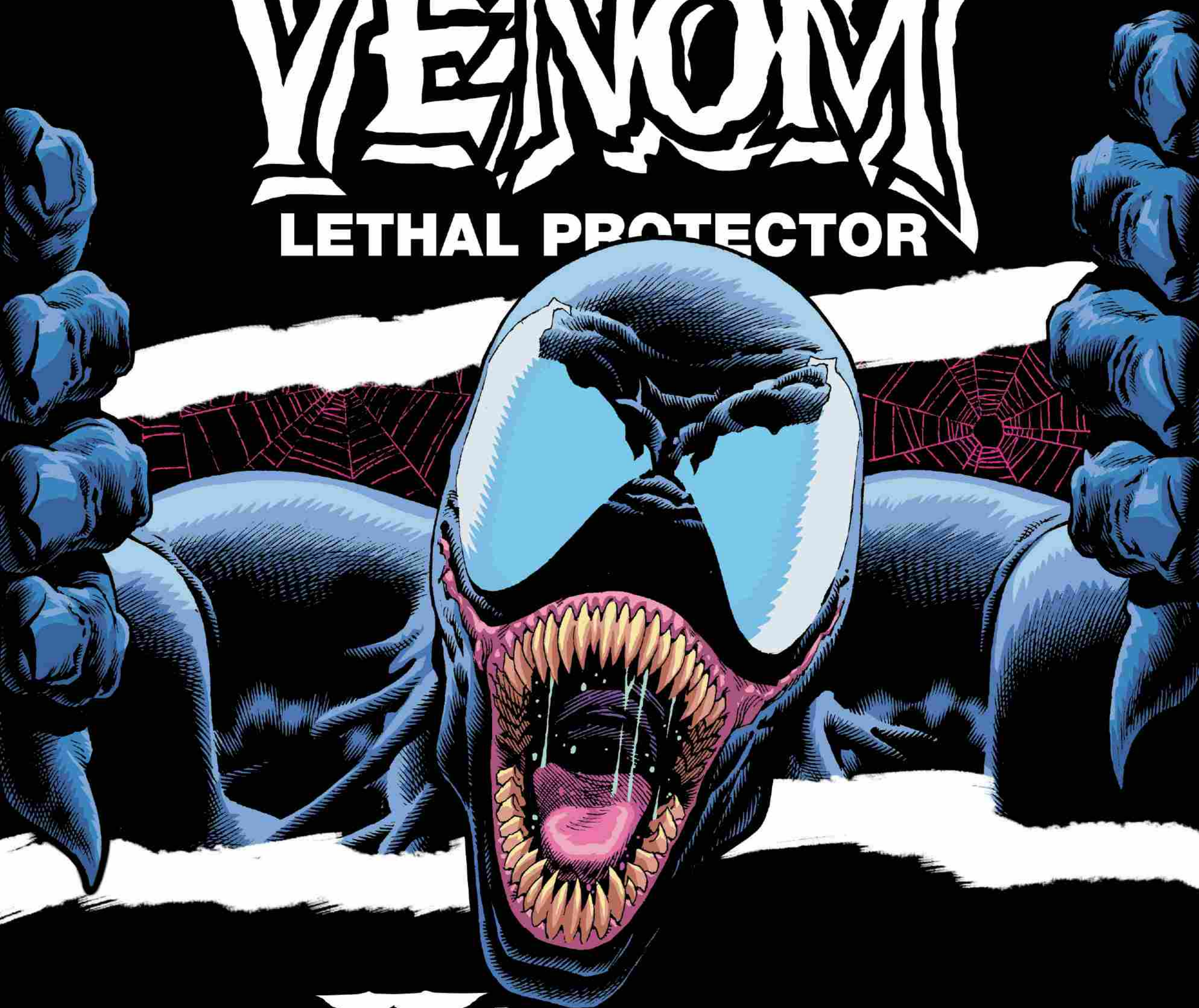


after
STERANKO
AND
GOLDEN

EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST. BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. DISGRACED, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH TO ASK FORGIVENESS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE, UNAWARE THAT AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARASITE WAS IN THE PARISH'S BELL TOWER. SPURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD BY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE CHOSE BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT IMBUED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MORE: POWERS OF ADHESION, ORGANIC WEB-SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREHENSILE TENDRILS WOVEN FROM THE CREATURE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. ON A TWISTED CRUSADE AND OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE:

VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR



II

PART 3 of 5

TOGETHER, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE HAVE SWORN ETERNAL AND VIOLENT VENGEANCE AGAINST THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. THOUGH THEY HUNGER FOR PETER PARKER'S BRAINS, THEY HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH THEIR INCREDIBLE POWER.

AFTER EDDIE ACCEPTED HER OFFER TO JOIN THE WILD PACK, VENOM AND SILVER SABLE ARE NOW ALLIES IN A BATTLE AGAINST THE HIGH-TECH TERRORIST ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS VANGUARD. HOWEVER, VANGUARD HAS NOT ONLY KIDNAPPED EDDIE'S OLD FRIEND PABLO MENDEZ, BUT ATTACKED A S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER AND PUT MILLIONS OF CIVILIANS IN DANGER BY SEIZING A POWERFUL AND DEADLY ALIEN ARTIFACT!

MEANWHILE, CARDIAC THWARTED THE VULTURE'S ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING OF A PROMINENT DOCTOR—AND THE PUPPET MASTER PULLING VULTURE'S STRINGS HAS BEEN REVEALED TO BE NONE OTHER THAN DOCTOR DOOM!

THE TIME--
SOME
YEARS AGO.

THE PLACE--
ATOP THE
RESEARCH WING
OF MANHATTAN'S
BLESSING
HOSPITAL.

THE
DANGER--

--YOU REALLY
NEED TO ASK?

SHRKAAM

Bright Apocalypse

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YOU DISAPPOINT ME, VULTURE! AND **DOCTOR DOOM** DOES NOT SUFFER DISAPPOINTMENT LIGHTLY!

A MINOR SETBACK, THAT'S ALL! YOU TASKED ME WITH BRINGING YOU THIS INSTITUTION'S **LONGEVITY** EXPERT, AND I'LL DO JUST THAT!



AS SOON AS I PUT THIS ANNOYING BUTTINSKY IN HIS GRAVE!



SSFESH



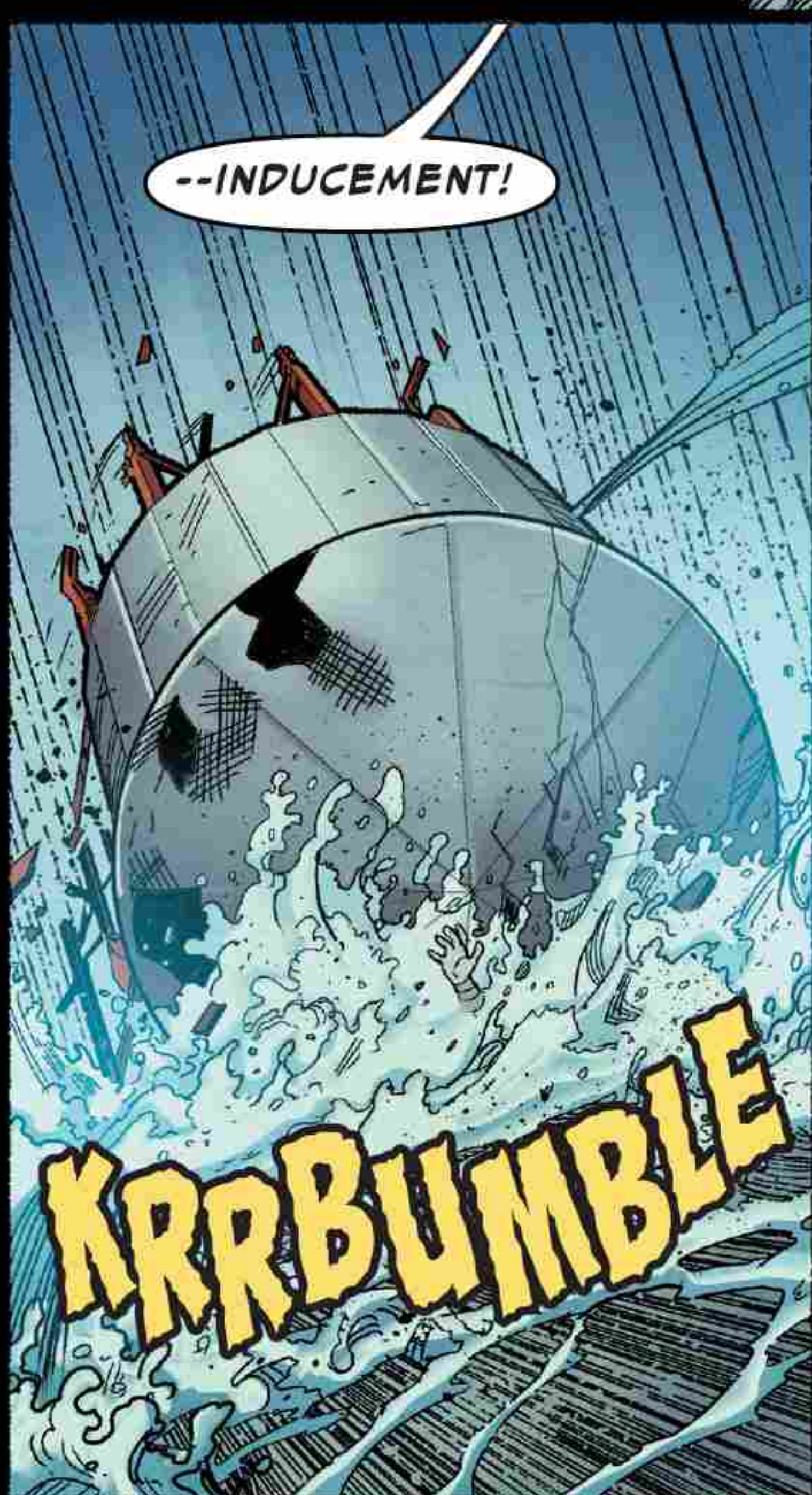
KTIWAK



IT SEEMS YOUR "SETBACK" OBJECTS!

PERHAPS CARDIAC REQUIRES A LESS SUBTLE--

FRA-RA-RZATCH



--INDUCEMENT!

KRRBUMBLE



AGH!
ARMOR'S
STRONG...
B-BUT NOT...
PERFECT!

FEELS
LIKE...ARM'S
BROKEN!



AT LEAST YOUR
FRENETIC FAILURE
PROVIDED A TIMELY
DISTRACTION--

--TO ALLOW MY
LATVERIAN SECURITY
FORCE TO OBTAIN
DR. GODDARD.



SO, DESPITE
YOUR BUNGLING,
THIS MISSION
HAS BEEN
SUCCESSFUL.

AS FOR
YOU--



--YOU'RE FIRED!



PAK

A ONE-ARMED HERO... MIGHT BE A DEAD HERO! T-TIME TO CONSIDER...



...THE BETTER PART OF VALOR!



I TICKED OFF DR. DOOM...AND LIVED?!

THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!

THERE HE IS!



GET 'IM!

I STAND CORRECTED...

AH, BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY.

WHILE AT THIS MOMENT, AT CENTRAL PARK'S SHEEP MEADOW...

THAT WAS A HELLUVA STUNT, SABLE, DITCHING THE HELICARRIER IN THE PARK BEFORE IT COULD SLAM INTO POPULATED AREAS. YOU SAVED A LOT OF LIVES.

WE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES.

IF IT WASN'T FOR VENOM'S "SPACEWALK" ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE 'CARRIER TO RESTORE POWER, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE CONTROL TO--

COLONEL FURY! UNAUTHORIZED SATELLITE TRANSMISSION FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE! SAYS IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

ALL RIGHT, BAKER, I'LL TAKE IT.

UM, I-IT'S NOT FOR YOU, SIR! IT'S FOR... HIM!





AH, THE MIGHTY VENOM, WE MEET AT LAST!

OR SHOULD I SAY, FOR THE LAST TIME!



MY NAME IS CHARLES EARHART, DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION CALLED VANGUARD.

YOU'VE INTERFERED IN OUR AFFAIRS TWICE, TO OUR INCREASING ANNOYANCE AND IRRITATION. THAT WILL NOW CEASE--



--OR WE WILL REMOVE ONE INCH OF FLESH FROM YOUR YOUNG FRIEND HERE FOR EVERY VANGUARDIAN YOU HARM!

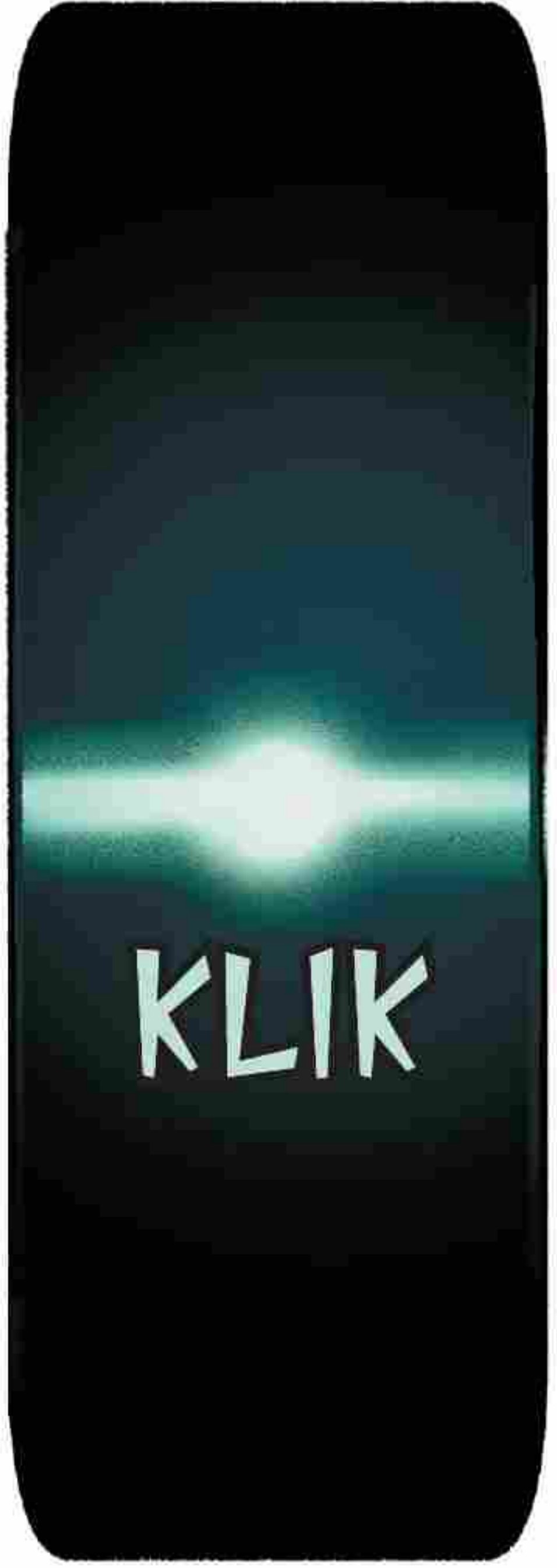
PABLO?!



WE HAVE EYES EVERYWHERE. IF YOU'RE SEEN EVEN CLOSE TO A VANGUARD OPERATION, YOUR FRIEND WILL DIE SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY.



WITH HIS BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS!



KLIK



BROCK!
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

TO FIND
PABLO.



BUT
HOW--?

YOU
HAVE YOUR
WAYS.

WE HAVE
OURS!



HOLD ON, SABLE!
YOU STILL NEED
TO ANSWER FOR
DAMAGES TO A
BILLION-DOLLAR
AIRCRAFT--

--NOT TO MENTION
LETTING THOSE VANGUARD
TERRORISTS GET
AWAY WITH AN ALIEN
ARTIFACT CAPABLE OF
CAUSING GLOBAL
DESTRUCTION!



I ALSO
SAVED THOUSANDS
OF CIVILIAN LIVES,
FURY, NOT TO MENTION
A COUPLE HUNDRED
UNCONSCIOUS
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS
ON BOARD THE
HELICARRIER!



I'D
SAY WE'RE
EVEN!



NICE
ZINGER, SILVER.
COULDN'T HAVE
SAID IT BETTER
MYSELF!



WHA--
BROCK?

WE SAID WE
HAD OUR WAYS,
AND RIGHT NOW,
YOU'RE ONE
OF THEM!



I'VE COME TO
UNDERSTAND YOU
WELL ENOUGH TO
KNOW YOU DON'T
GIVE UP!

AND THE
RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO
SILVER SABLE
INTERNATIONAL
TOP EVEN WHAT
I HAD AS A
REPORTER FOR
**THE DAILY
GLOBE!**



SO, SINCE
I'M STILL ON
YOUR **PAYROLL**
ANYWAY...

POINT
TAKEN--
STRAP
IN!



YOU ATTACHED
THE **TRACKING**
POD TO **SABLE'S**
VEHICLE?

YES, SIR,
CHECKED OUT AND
TRANSMITTING.

GOOD.

A LIMITED
GUERRILLA FORAY
MIGHT SUCCEED
WHERE A MASS
INCURSION WOULDN'T.
BUT WE'LL BE
READY...

...WHEN
THE TIME
IS RIGHT!



BUT AT THIS TIME,
IN THE OFFICE OF
BLESSING HOSPITAL'S
OWNER, ELIAS WIRTHAM...

THAT
HAIRLINE
FRACTURE
ISN'T
SERIOUS,
SIR.



SHOULD
MEND COMPLETELY
IN A COUPLE
OF WEEKS.

WEEKS...?
I SEE.

THANK
YOU, DR.
MORRIS.

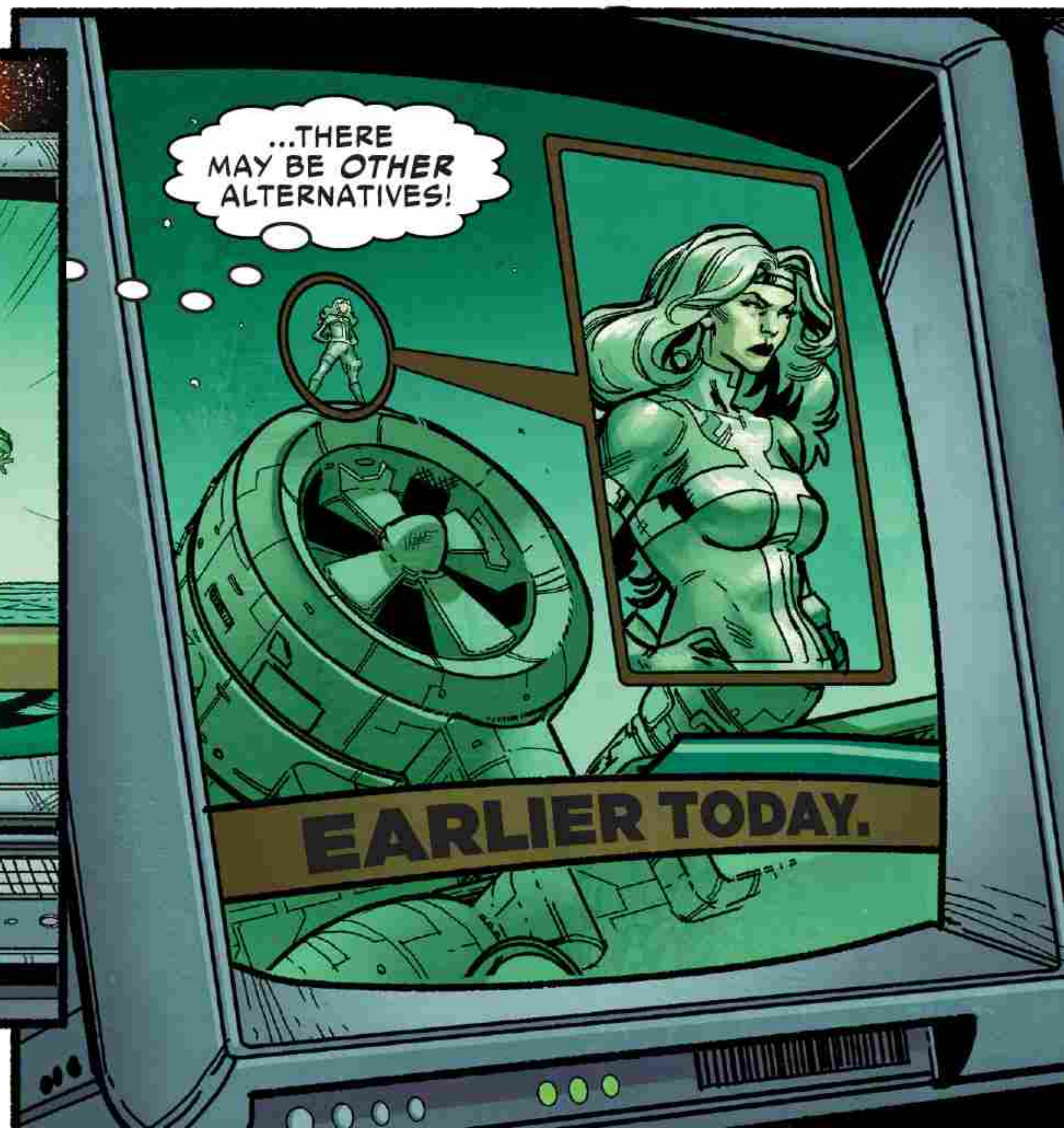


LIKE ALL TOP-
ECHELON EMPLOYEES,
FRANZ GODDARD HAS
A SUBCUTANEOUS
CHIP IMPLANTED
IN CASE OF
ABDUCTION.

BUT
CARDIAC
CAN'T DO MUCH
ABOUT IT WITH
A BROKEN
ARM!



TONY STARK
HELPED DEVELOP MY
ARMOR AND WEAPONS,
BUT I DOUBT HE'D
BE WILLING TO LOAN
ME IRON MAN!
THEN AGAIN...



...THERE
MAY BE OTHER
ALTERNATIVES!

EARLIER TODAY.



WHILE AT A STILL UNDISCLOSED LOCATION...

I DON'T GET IT. I JOINED VANGUARD BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE!

WE DO, AND WE WILL!

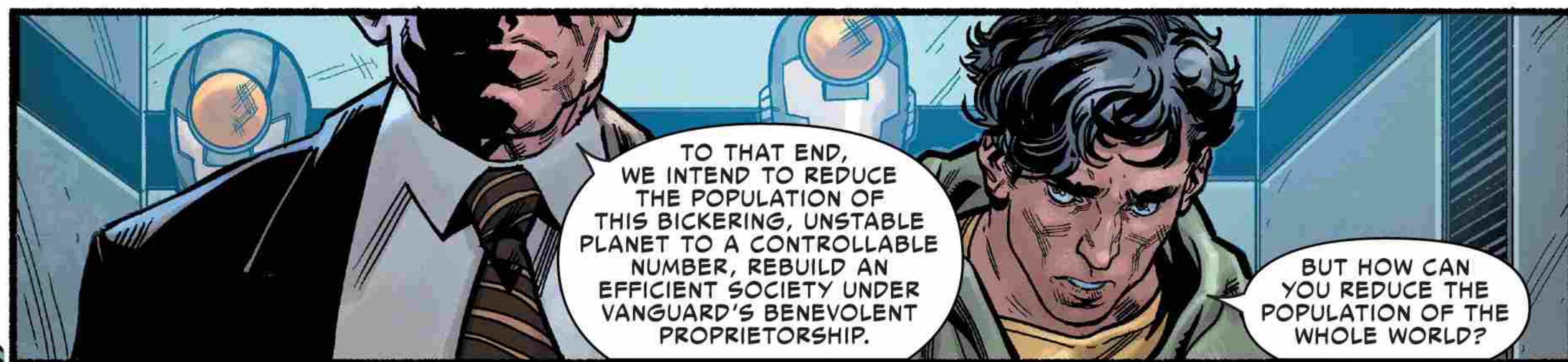


AS A MERE CADET, YOU WEREN'T PRIVY TO THE EDEN PROJECT.

QUITE SIMPLY, EARTH WAS A PARADISE LONG AGO BUT WAS TWISTED AND CORRUPTED BY THE FALSE PROMISES OF RELIGION AND POLITICAL CONQUEST.



SO WE'RE GOING TO START OVER. BUT THIS TIME, WITH THE TRUE HOPE OF SCIENCE AS OUR GUIDING LIGHT!



TO THAT END, WE INTEND TO REDUCE THE POPULATION OF THIS BICKERING, UNSTABLE PLANET TO A CONTROLLABLE NUMBER, REBUILD AN EFFICIENT SOCIETY UNDER VANGUARD'S BENEVOLENT PROPRIETORSHIP.

BUT HOW CAN YOU REDUCE THE POPULATION OF THE WHOLE WORLD?



THIS DEVICE, POWERED BY A RECENTLY OBTAINED OFF-WORLD ARTIFACT, CAN BE PROGRAMMED TO ATOMIZE ANY ORGANIC MATTER. AND BY OUR CALCULATIONS--

--WE NEED TO REMOVE A MERE 85 PERCENT OF HUMANS ON EARTH TO MAKE OUR DREAM A REALITY!

NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY.

SABLE
INTERNATIONAL
SATELLITE SCANS
WERE ABLE TO
TRACK THE ENERGY
TRAIL LEFT BY
THOSE CLOAKED
VANGUARD
VEHICLES.*

WE'RE
CLOSE.



*LAST
ISSUE.

THIS IS A
BIG RISK--THERE
HAS TO BE MORE
IN IT FOR YOU
THAN SIMPLE
PAYBACK.

THERE
IS.

THAT
ARTIFACT THE
VANGUARDIANS
STOLE IS CAPABLE
OF KILLING
MILLIONS.

AND I
WON'T HAVE
THAT BLOOD
ON MY
HANDS!



ACCORDING
TO COORDINATES
THE SCANS PROVIDED,
THE VANGUARD
SHIPS STOPPED
RIGHT--

"--HERE?"

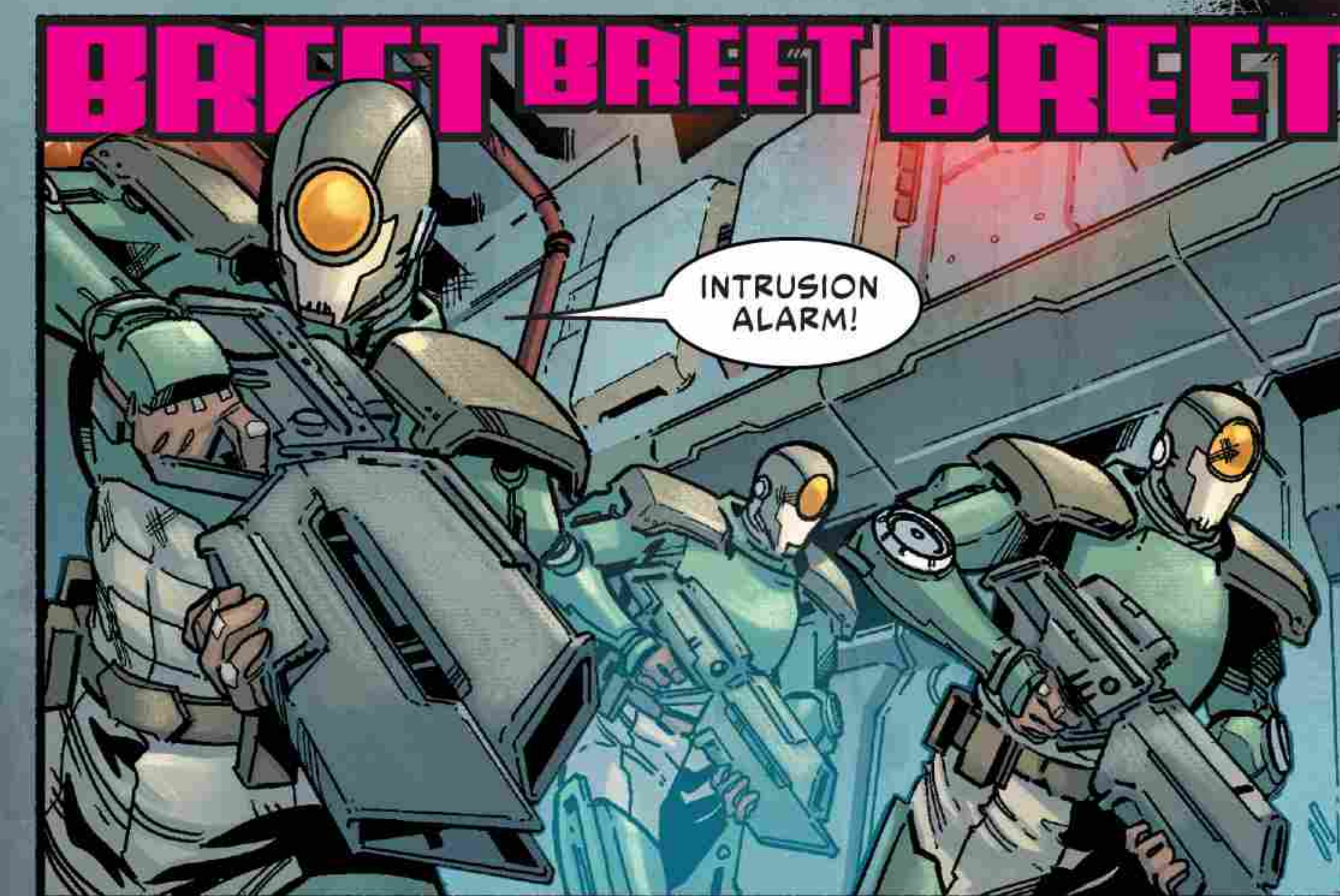
"A
CONVENT?"

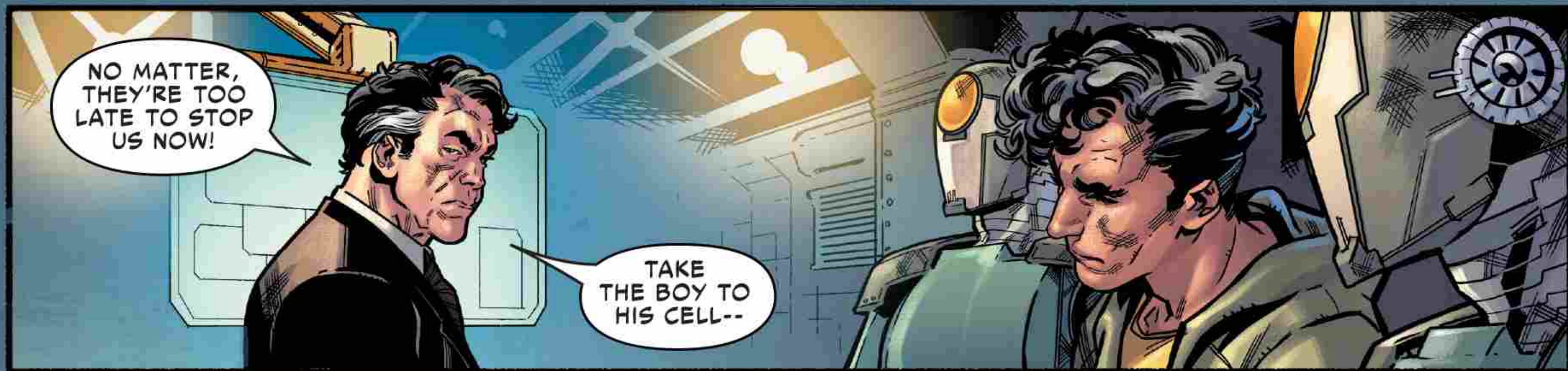


MAKES SENSE,
I GUESS. WHO'D
THINK OF LOOKING FOR
A TERRORIST CELL
IN A SYMBOL OF
FORGIVENESS!

PROBABLY
HOLDING THE
MOTHER SUPERIOR
HOSTAGE TO FORCE
THE OTHERS TO
COOPERATE!









MOMENTS LATER, TWO LEVELS BELOW...

SOUNDS LIKE IT'S HITTING THE FAN UPSTAIRS.

YEAH, GLAD WE'RE IN A SHIELDED BUNKER!



ANOTHER PRISONER? WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE 'ER OUTSIDE TO FRY?

BETTER IDEA-- WHY DON'T YOU SCUMDOGS--



--TAKE A LITTLE NAP!

PIMP SH

THWACK



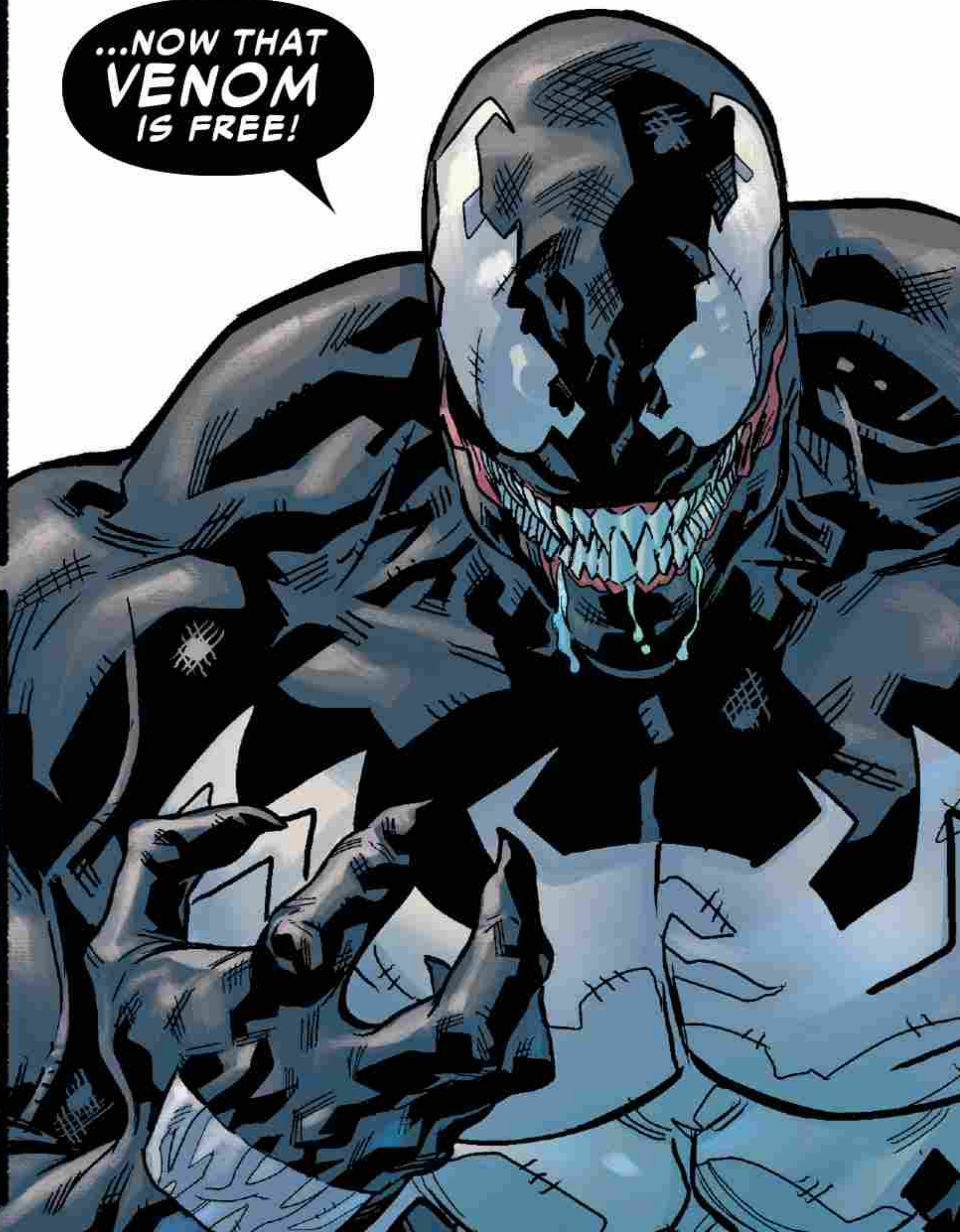
THANKS, EDDIE, BUT THESE WACKOS HAVE A MACHINE THAT'S GONNA--

WE KNOW! TELL US HOW TO FIND IT, THEN GET OUT OF HERE!

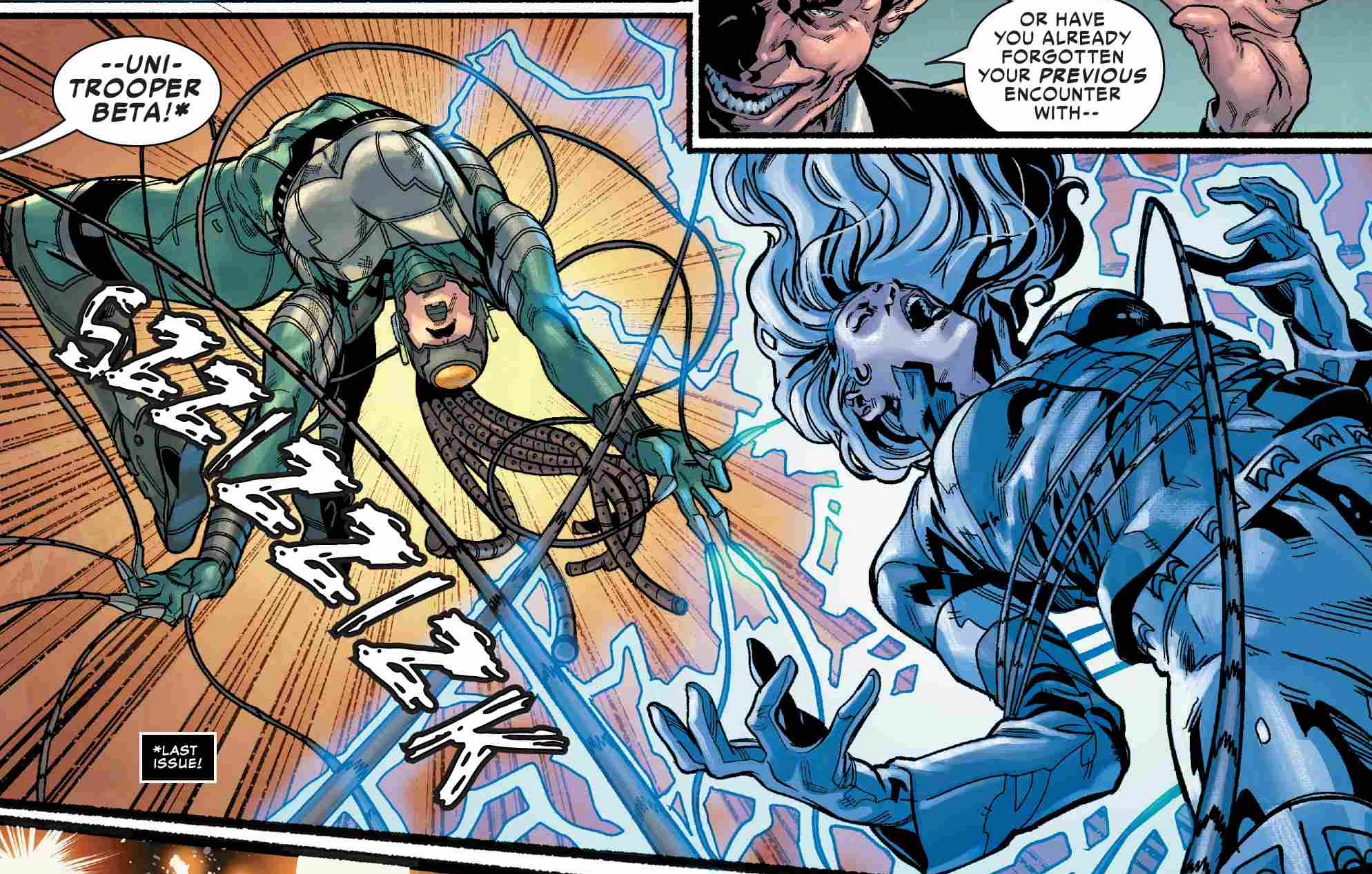


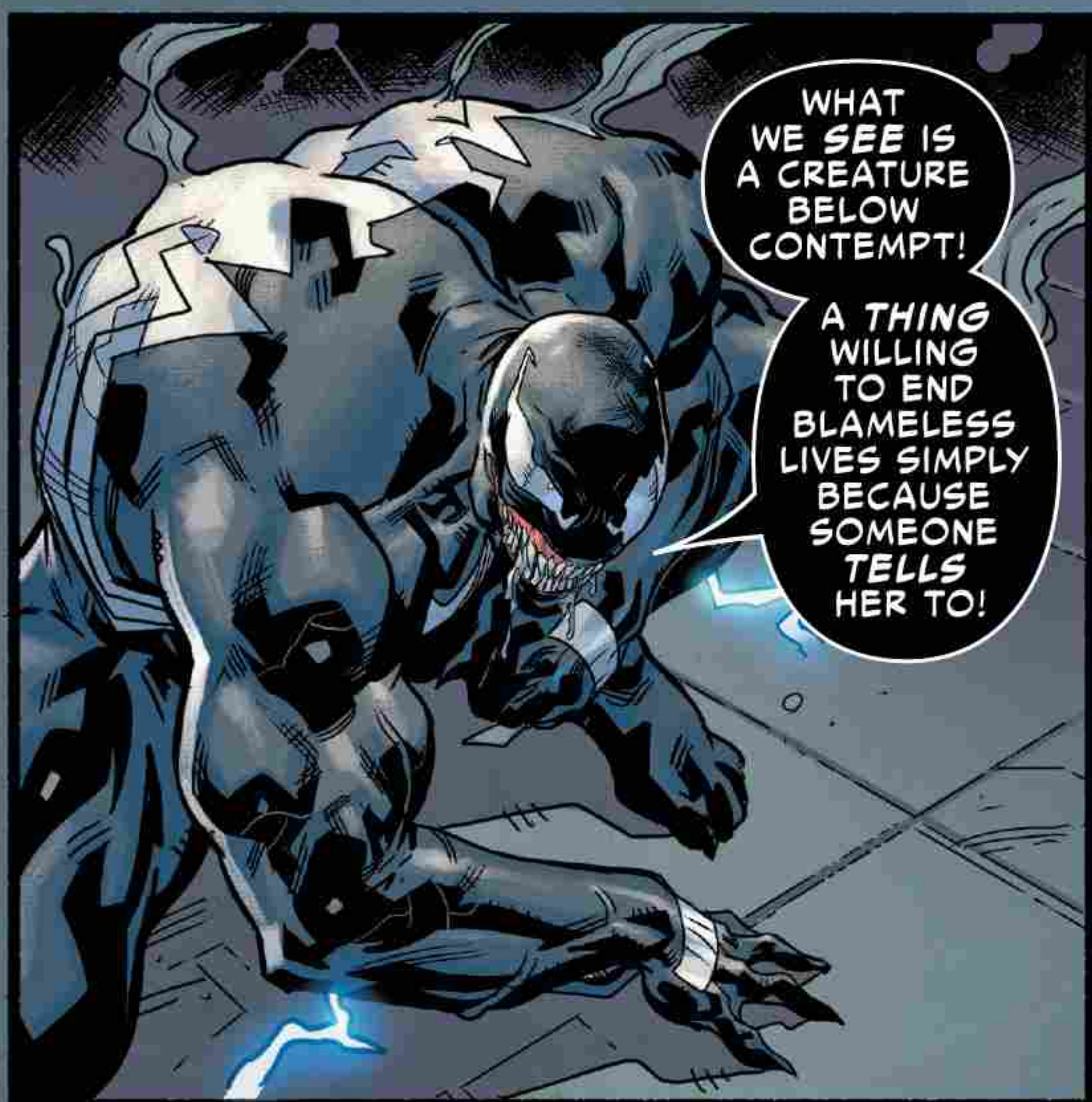
BUT HOW--?

WE'LL FIND A WAY...



...NOW THAT VENOM IS FREE!





WHAT WE SEE IS A CREATURE BELOW CONTEMPT!

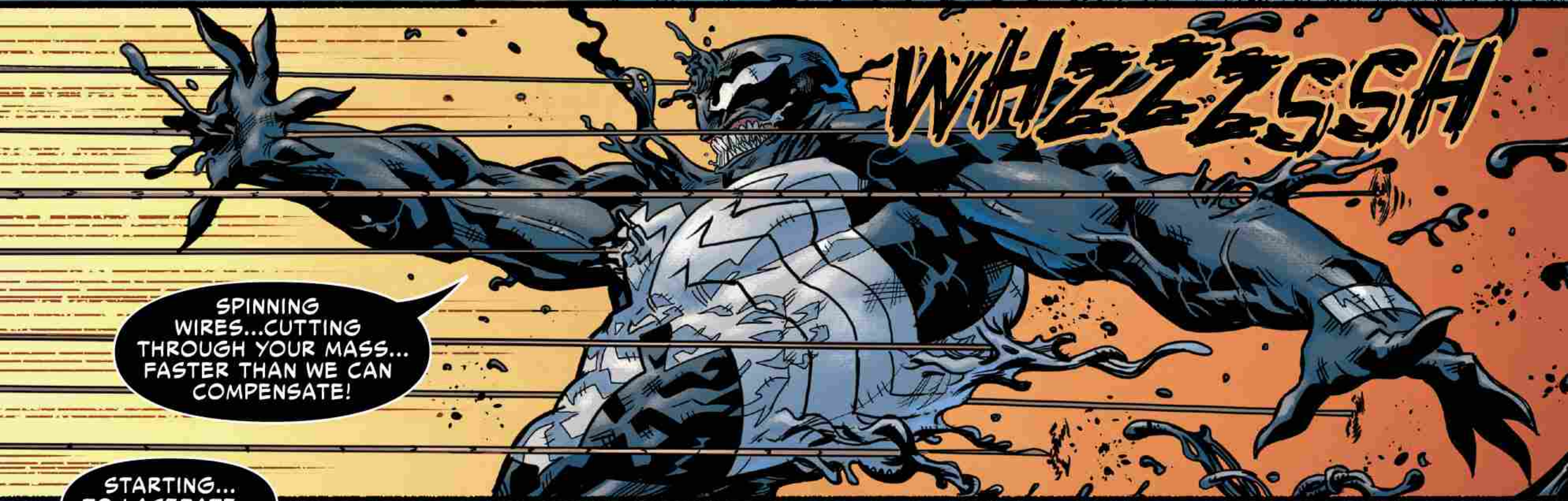
A THING WILLING TO END BLAMELESS LIVES SIMPLY BECAUSE SOMEONE TELLS HER TO!



WE/ ARE/WHAT/ WE/ARE/WE/ DO/WHAT/ WE/DO.

AND/WE/ HAVE/BEEN/ INSTRUCTED/ TO/STOP/ YOU.

WHZZZZ



WHZZZZSSH

SPINNING WIRES...CUTTING THROUGH YOUR MASS... FASTER THAN WE CAN COMPENSATE!

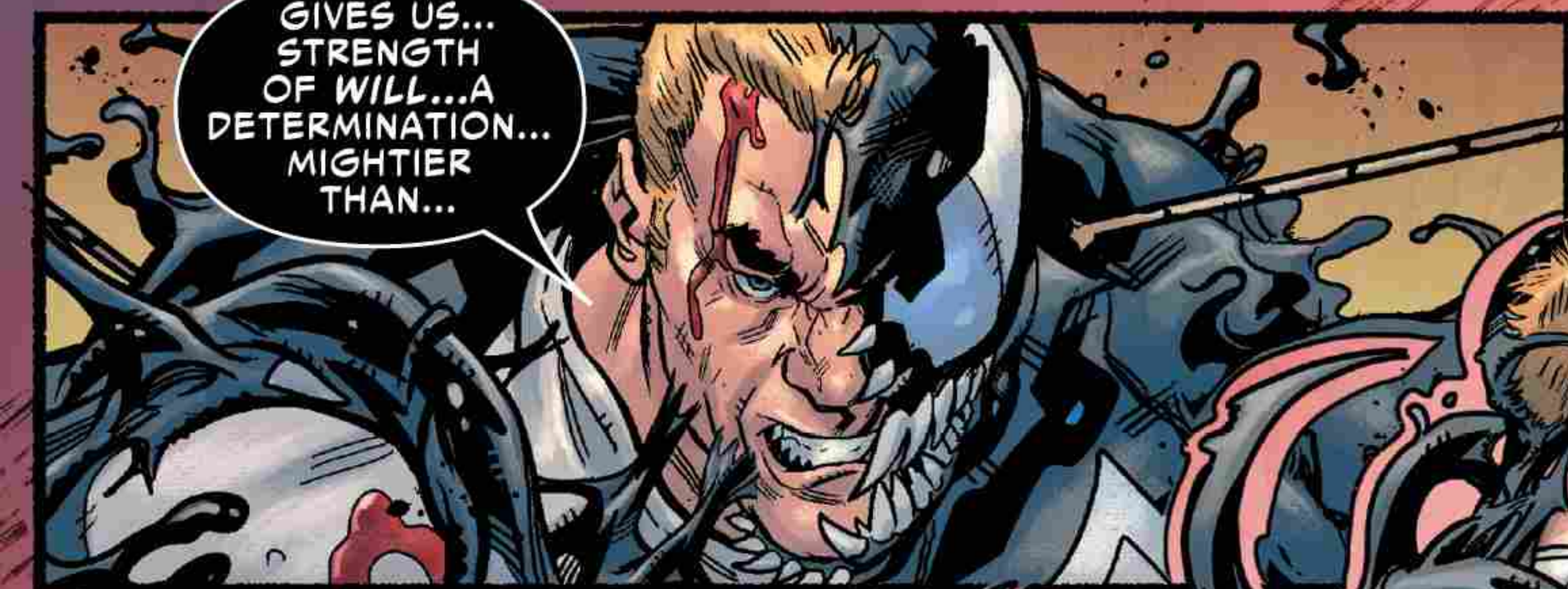
STARTING... TO LACERATE... SKIN!

SLICING... LIKE SCALDING RAZORS!

WZZZZSSH

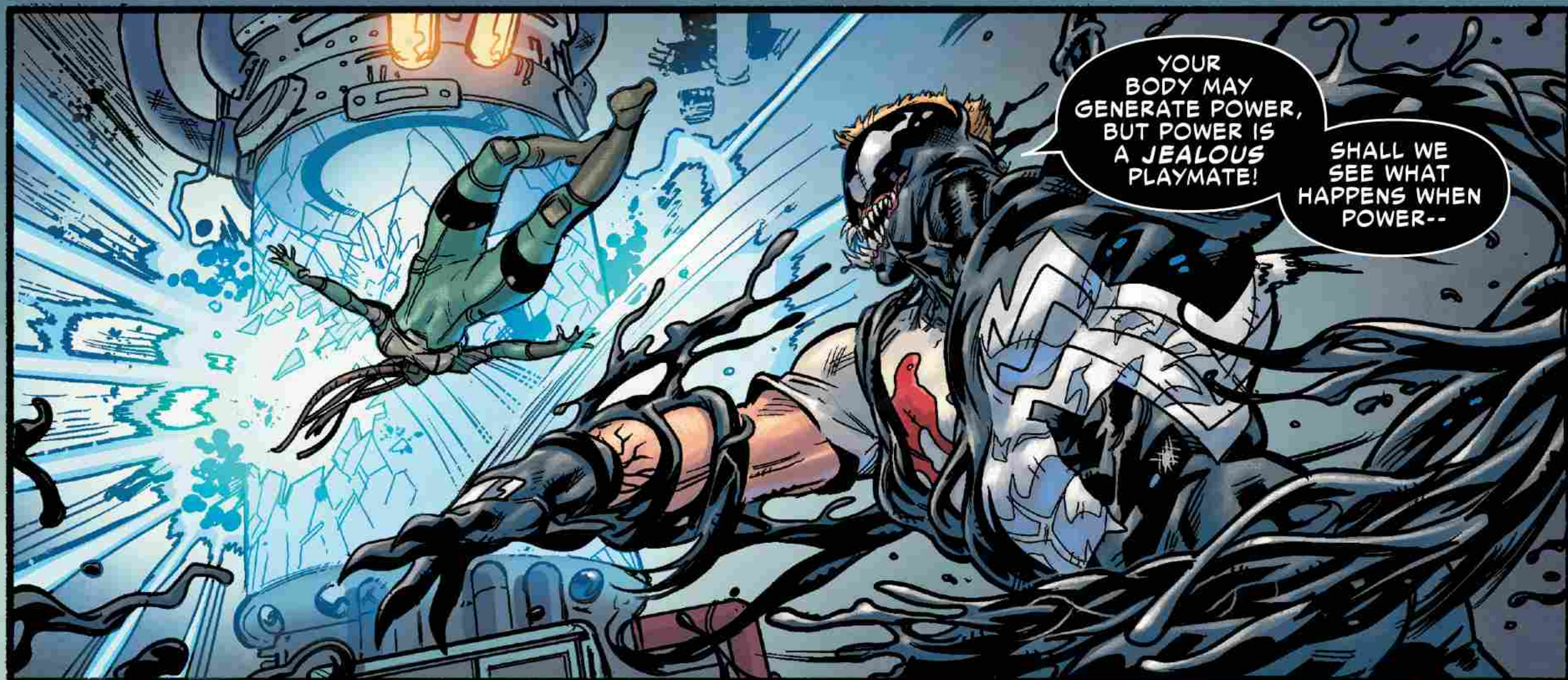
BUT BONDING... GIVES US SOMETHING MORE...THAN MERE PURPOSE.

GIVES US... STRENGTH OF WILL...A DETERMINATION... MIGHTIER THAN...



...AGONY!

HRONK?!



YOUR
BODY MAY
GENERATE POWER,
BUT POWER IS
A JEALOUS
PLAYMATE!

SHALL WE
SEE WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
POWER--



"--MEETS
POWER?"

PRAKA-BA--



BAROOOM

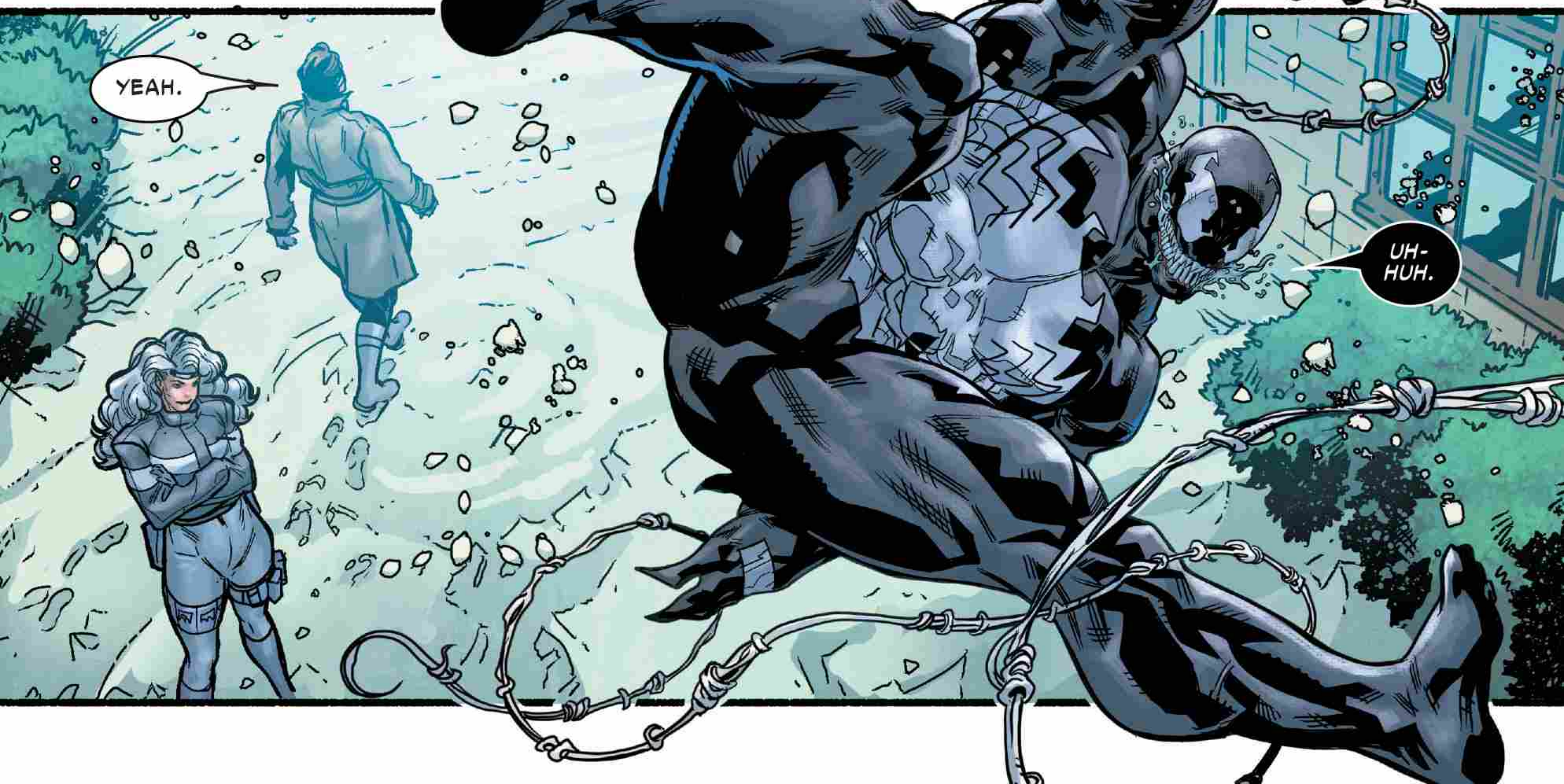
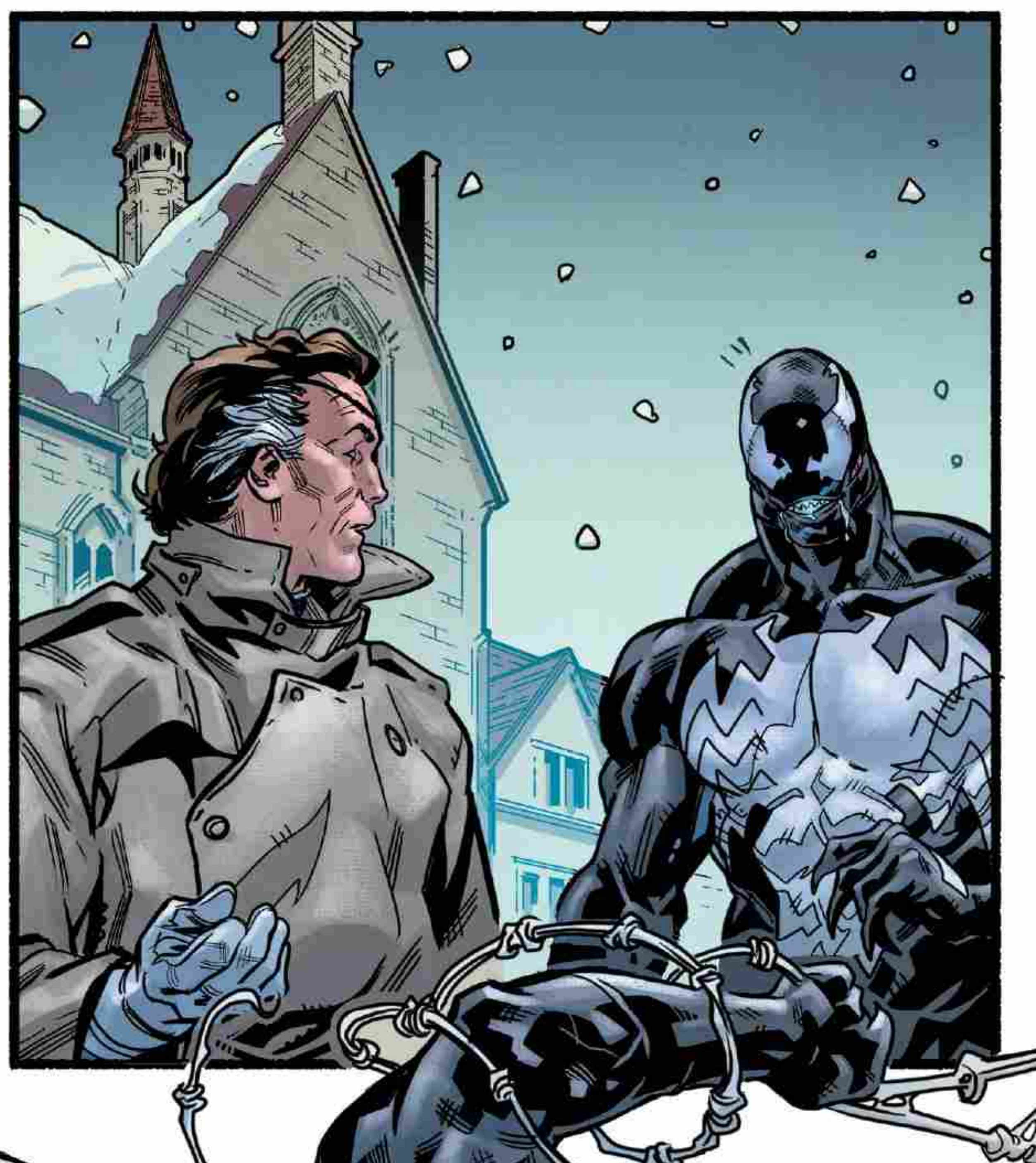


VANGUARDIANS
SCATTERING. AND
FROM THE GUNFIRE UP
ABOVE, WE'D GUESS
THE "CAVALRY"
HAS ARRIVED!

WITH THE
ALIEN ARTIFACT
SHATTERED, EVEN THOSE
EXTREMISTS MUST
REALIZE--



--IT'S
OVER!



AND AS NIGHT RETURNS TO SHADOW MANHATTAN, ON A SIDEWALK OUTSIDE THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY...

I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU, BROCK.

HIRING YOU WAS IFFY, BUT I ADMIT YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE--AND YOU'VE EARNED YOUR BONUS.

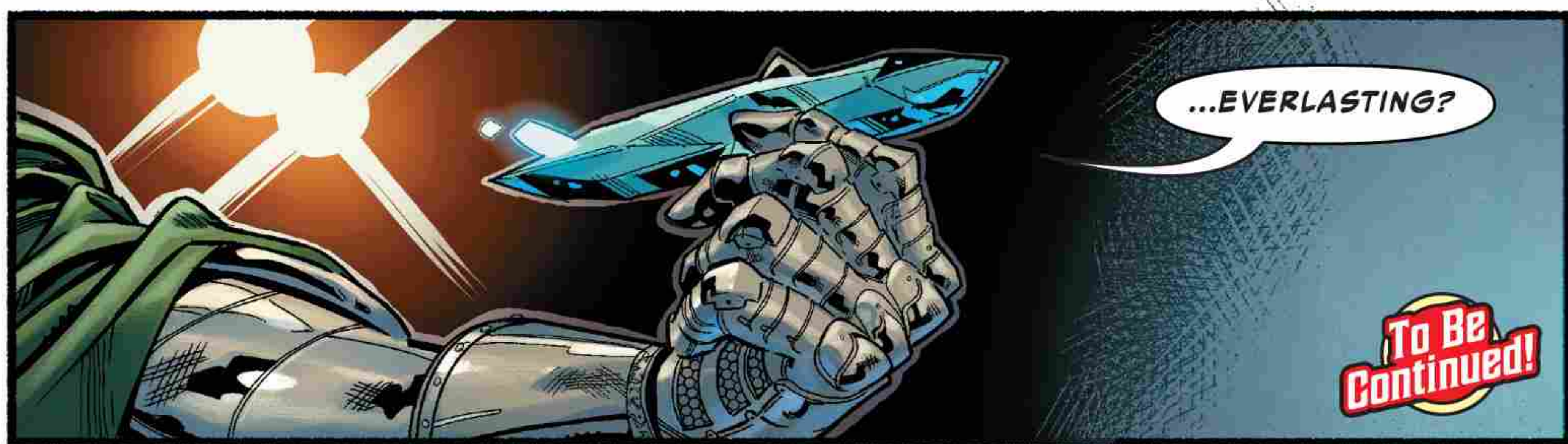
YOUR CRIMINAL STATUS AND GROWING REPUTATION MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE--

--BUT PERHAPS WE CAN EVEN WORK TOGETHER AGAIN SOMETIME. WHO KNOWS...?

STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.

YEAH, TELL US ABOUT IT!

MR. BROCK? IF YOU HAVE A MOMENT...?





Next

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ZONE